To: Thomas, Hattie[Thomas.Hattie@epa.gov]

From: Washburn, Ben

Sent: Thur 10/31/2013 8:41:51 PM **Subject:** OPA Daily Digest 10/31/13

OPA Daily Digest for 10/31/13

Congressional Inquiries:

Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (Mo.) 10/29/13. Recommendation for an EPA position. Due: 11/13/13. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Deb Fischer (Neb.) 10/29/13. Concerns regarding the process and training of licensed EPA building inspectors. Due: 11/13/13. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Roy Blunt (Mo.) 9/25/13. Constituent concerns about property that they own considered as an abandoned hazardous waste site. Due: 10/9/13. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Claire McCaskill (Mo.) 9/23/13. Subcontractor complaints of payments not received for work done for lead removal at North County Schools in St. Francois County. Due: 10/9/13. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

Gov Sam Brownback (Kan) – 10/23/13: Support for 604B funds to be provided to KDHE. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

Gov Dave Heineman (Neb) – 10/23/13: Support for 604B funds to be provided to NDEQ. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

Gov Jay Nixon (Mo) – 10/23/13: Support for 604B funds to be provided to MDNR. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

Press Inquiries:

Salina (Kan.) Journal – Erin Mathews – 10/30/13 – Questions about responses to mercury spills. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

Environmental Stories:

American Spectator - The EPA Coal Tour – 10/30/13 - A "listening tour" that is bypassing coal-producing and -consuming areas. This week bureaucrats from the Environmental Protection Administration have embarked on a "Listening Tour" of eleven cities to solicit feedback on their on-going campaign to shut down the nation's coal industry.

http://spectator.org/archives/2013/10/30/the-epa-coal-tour

MSNBC - The Rachel Maddow Show | Missouri smelter gains attention from conspiracy theorists - 10/30/13 - Ordinarily, the demise of a Missouri smelter wouldn't be a political story worth noting, but the right's reaction to the Doe Run Co. closing its doors is kind of amazing. http://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow-show/smelter-center-new-conspiracy-theory

The Firearms Blog - Last Remaining Lead Smelter In The USA Closing After 120 Years - 10/20/13 - The last remaining lead smelter, in Herculaneum MO, is closing down. This will undoubtedly affect the price of lead, since the lead that is mined in Viburnum MO will now be sent out of the US for smelting. http://www.thefirearmblog.com/blog/2013/10/20/remaining-lead-smelter-usa-closing/

Right Wing News - Back Door Gun Control Moves Forward – 10/30/13 - There are numerous alarming reasons why the US government and the military have been buying up all the ammo. Here's one of them. Obama and the EPA just shut down the last lead smelting plant in the US. http://www.rightwingnews.com/environment/back-door-gun-control-moves-forward/

Before It's News - Backdoor Gun Grab – EPA Forces Closure Of Last Lead Smelter In U.S. - 10/30/13 - The Left badly wants American citizens disarmed and denied their Second Amendment rights, and they'll achieve that by any means necessary...including using Obama Environmental Protection Agency to severely impact the price of ammo. http://beforeitsnews.com/opinion-conservative/2013/10/backdoor-gun-grab-epa-forces-closure-of-last-lead-smelter-in-u-s-2743466.html

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Column: Investors: Carbon standards can be catalyst for economic growth - 10/30/13 - Investors reacted strongly when the Environmental Protection Agency released carbon pollution standards for future power plants on Sept. 20, but not how one might typically expect. http://www.stltoday.com/news/opinion/columns/investors-carbon-standards-can-be-catalyst-for-economic-growth/article 52b5a004-b6ac-5080-a0f3-f294d4dfa612.html

Des Moines Register (blog) - Researchers say urban wetlands can improve water quality - 10/30/13 - Researchers looking at urban wetlands said cities and towns — even homeowners — can use them to capture nutrients that can degrade nearby rivers, lakes and streams, slow flood waters, and provide important habitat for wildlife. http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2013/10/30/researchers-say-urban-wetlands-can-improve-water-quality

Leavenworth Times (Kan.) - Oil tanks explode during lightning storm - 10/30/13 - Oil storage tanks exploded following a lightning strike Wednesday morning in northern Leavenworth County, emergency officials said. http://www.leavenworthtimes.com/article/20131030/NEWS/131039974/0/SEARCH

Republic Monitor (Mo.) - DNR sets public meetings, comment period on 2014 list of impaired waters - 10/30/13 - The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is seeking the public's input on the biennial draft list of impaired waters and the methods used to develop future lists. http://republicmonews.com/n2christiancounty/dnr-sets-public-meetings-comment-period-on-list-of-impaired/article-566514b8-8064-5486-9489-eace266529bf.html

Omaha World-Herald - Nebraska lawmakers spar over intent of \$44,000 climate change study - 10/30/13 - The Nebraska lawmaker who initiated the Legislature's first study of climate change now prefers to see the study abandoned rather than continue along what he called a politicized, scientifically invalid path. http://www.omaha.com/article/20131029/NEWS/131039908/1688#lawmakers-spar-over-intent-of-44-000-climate-change-study

Lincoln Journal Star - Nebraska electric utilities will monitor upcoming power grid test - 10/31/13 - Nebraska's three largest electric utilities will monitor an emergency drill designed to test the vulnerability of the North American power grid against possible terrorism, including cyber attacks. http://journalstar.com/news/local/nebraska-electric-utilities-will-monitor-upcoming-power-grid-test/article ca039988-4044-5324-935d-859a380c1f56.html

Waterloo Cedar Falls Courier (lowa) - German diplomat at UNI: Going 'green' costs green - 10/30/13 - A foreign diplomat from a country leading the world in environmentally friendly energy practices came to tell lowans what they shouldn't take from their example. http://wcfcourier.com/news/local/german-diplomat-at-uni-going-green-costs-green/article 72ef7447-bae2-5d1c-aeb4-ae5f649ec9e2.html

Kansas City Star - Outlook remains positive for natural gas use - 10/30/13 - The natural gas industry, overcoming previous concerns about growth in demand, is increasingly optimistic about its future, according to Black & Veatch. http://www.kansascity.com/2013/10/30/4584234/outlook-remains-positive-for-natural.html

Clinton Herald (Iowa) - Alliant Energy going 'green' - 10/30/13 - A wall of green has popped up along a part of the Clinton coal tar contamination site owned by Alliant Energy. About 60 trees have been planted this week along the edge of Alliant's property on First Street to create a barrier between the riverfront area and the company's utility yard. http://clintonherald.com/local/x934969406/Going-green/print

Neosho Daily News - Bill Reiboldt: Project could send wrong precedent - 10/28/13 - ast Tuesday, we held our final hearing in Savannah, Mo., at the Andrews County Courthouse. We were informed or brought up-to-date on a number of issues, including the Jameson Island Project. This controversial project is an effort by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to re-create shallow water habitats for the endangered pallid sturgeons. http://www.neoshodailynews.com/article/20131028/OPINION/131028777/-1/sports

Des Moines Register - Lawmakers push EPA to lower country's ethanol mandate - 10/31/13 - A bipartisan coalition of 169 lawmakers pleaded with the Environmental Protection Agency Thursday to lower the country's ethanol mandate.

http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2013/10/31/lawmakers-push-epa-to-lower-countrysethanol-mandate/article

E&E News Daily - Critics slam not just emissions regs at EPA session, but distance to get there - 10/30/13 - Moffat County, Colo., Commissioner Tom Mathers is opposed to U.S. EPA's upcoming rules for existing power plants, arguing that new regulations on carbon emissions will hurt his community's economy. But he's downright angry about having to drive from the northwestern corner of the state to Denver to make his opinion known to federal officials.

http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/stories/1059989696/feed

ClimateWire - Kemper project nears \$5B, hits new delays – 10/30/13 - Mississippi Power's 582-megawatt Kemper County Energy Facility is under scrutiny because of its status as the first coal plant in the United States projected to capture carbon dioxide. The flagship project has been delayed and has gotten more expensive. http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1059989661/feed

Christian Science Monitor - Walmart: the next clean energy giant? - 10/30/13 - The retail giant Walmart currently has 89 megawatts of solar power at 215 locations and in 2012, Walmart reached a goal of a 20 percent reduction in its greenhouse gas emissions.

http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/Energy-Voices/2013/1030/Walmart-the-next-clean-energy-giant

Greenwire - EPA IG's probe 'ethically questionable' -- Chemical Safety Board chairman - 10/30/13 - U.S. EPA's inspector general asked a Chemical Safety Board attorney to allow "electronic eavesdropping" of his meeting with an Office of Special Counsel lawyer, the board alleges -- one of what the board chairman calls "ethically questionable" efforts to uncover wrongdoing at his agency. http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059989693/feed

Greenwire - Sportsmen leap into RFS debate over concerns about habitat, water quality - 10/30/13 - Sportsmen and their congressional backers say federal ethanol policy is destroying wildlife habitat and contributing to water quality problems. http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059989685/feed

ClimateWire - Panel prescribes major fixes for aging U.S. power grid - 10/30/13 - Today, everything from bank receipts to the batting averages of baseball players can be coded into megabytes and lines of data. Yet in the United States, the basic infrastructure that underpins these systems remains largely untouched by the computerization boom of the past half-century. http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1059989656/feed

New York Times - Looking for a Way Around Keystone XL, Canadian Oil Hits the Rails - 10/30/13 - But even if President Obama rejects the pipeline, it might not matter much. Oil companies are already building rail terminals to deliver oil from western Canada to the United States, and even to Asia. http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/31/business/energy-environment/looking-for-a-way-around-keystone-xl-canadian-oil-hits-the-rails.html

Bloomberg - North Dakota Oil Spill Spotlights Obama Delay on Rules - 10/29/13 - Three years after an oil pipeline rupture in Michigan spilled 843,000 gallons of sludge, government regulators still haven't produced promised rules to compel operators to detect leaks. http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-10-29/north-dakota-oil-spill-spotlights-obama-delay-on-rules.html

Greentech Media - PACE on a Roll: \$43M and Counting - 10/30/13 - PACE legislation is enacted in 31 states, and the money has just started to flow. Cities and states across the U.S. have issued over \$43 million to more than 180 commercial property-assessed clean energy (PACE) financed projects. http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/pace-on-a-roll-43m-and-counting

NRDC - Final Farm Bill Must Save Farmland, Farm Communities, Environment - 10/30/13 - Rightly, most of the conference debate will focus on the huge funding gap between the two bills for food stamps and other nutrition programs. But within the agriculture sections of the bills, the conferees must choose between two sharply divergent visions of how we should treat our farmland and our natural resources. http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/fmatzner/final_farm_bill_must_save_farm.html

Environmental Leader - 'Misguided' Water-Risk Management at Largest Firms, CDP Says -

10/31/13 - A misguided approach to water-related risk management is business as usual at the world's largest global companies such as BP, Bayer, Lockheed Martin, General Motors, Nestle, Walmart and Unilever, according to a CDP report released today.

http://www.environmentalleader.com/2013/10/31/misguided-water-risk-management-at-largest-firms-cdp-says/

Environmental Leader - Cleantech Future Breeds New Optimism - 10/31/13 - If you've not been paying much attention to cleantech in the last little while, it's time to sit up and take notice. Because post-Solyndra, cleantech has been quietly gaining momentum.

http://www.environmentalleader.com/2013/10/31/cleantech-future-breeds-new-optimism/

Huffington Post (blog) - EPA Listening Sessions: Speak Up for a Healthy Future - 10/30/13 - Right now, the Environmental Protection Agency is listening. The EPA has set up listening sessions around the country to hear -- from you -- what it should do about our changing climate.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/molly-rauch/epa-listening-sessions b 4178211.html

E&E News PM - EPA yanked guidance because issue 'deserves' rulemaking -- McCarthy - 10/30/13 - U.S. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said today her agency pulled a Clean Water Act guidance aimed at clarifying federal oversight of wetlands and isolated streams because the issue merited a public rulemaking process. http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2013/10/30/stories/1059989694

E&E Daily - Bill to curb EPA rules would move through unfriendly Senate panel - 10/30/13 - Sen. Joe Manchin's new proposal to limit U.S. EPA rules for new and existing power plants seems to be hitting head winds in the Senate already. http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/2013/10/30/stories/1059989653

E&E Daily - Committee advances 3 bills streamlining regulations - 10/30/13 - The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee yesterday approved three bills pitched by Republicans as offering farmers and forest owners relief from "regulatory red tape." http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/2013/10/30/stories/1059989650

BNA - Conferees Agree Now Is Time To Complete Multiyear Farm Bill - 10/31/13 - The opening remarks at the initial session of the conference committee meeting on the farm bill all struck the same chord: It's time to finish up negotiations on the multiyear farm bill.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=37707072&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e2y3b1h9&split=0

BNA - Chamber of Commerce Asks EPA to Hold More Power Plant Forums in Coal States -

10/31/13 - The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and 12 state affiliates (including Nebraska) asked the Environmental Protection Agency to hold additional listening sessions on its carbon dioxide standards for power plants in states that most heavily rely on coal.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=37707053&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e2x9n5x9&split=0

BNA - Supreme Court's Greenhouse Gas Decision Largely a Victory for EPA, Panelists Say -

10/31/13 - The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Environmental Protection Agency's fundamental Clean Air Act authority to regulate greenhouse gases when it agreed to hear only a narrow challenge to the agency's various greenhouse gas regulations, panelists said at a forum.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=37707046&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e2x9k2d7&split=0

BNA - EPA Reschedules Advisory Meeting on Lead, Copper Dripping Water Faucet - 10/31/13 - The

Environmental Protection Agency announced Oct. 28 it has rescheduled its National Drinking Water Advisory Council meeting to discuss the upcoming lead and copper rule.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=37707078&vname=dennotallissues&id=a0e2y3d8a4&split=0

BNA - EPA Says Utilities, Plumbing Manufacturers Must Meet Lead-Free Law by Jan. 4, 2014 -

10/31/13 - Drinking water utilities and plumbing manufacturers and retailers must meet a new definition of lead-free by Jan. 4, 2014, according to an Environmental Protection Agency summary of the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act.

BNA - Barrasso Urges EPA Not to Add Ammonium Nitrate to Risk Management Program - 10/31/13 -

Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) has asked the Environmental Protection Agency not to recommend ammonium nitrate's inclusion in a program designed to reduce the risks of airborne chemical releases.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=37707048&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e2x9m2p1&split=0

BNA - EPA Says States Can Tailor Ammonia Level Criteria to Reflect Freshwater Aquatic Life -

10/31/13 - Environmental Protection Agency officials said states have the flexibility to tailor the nationally recommended water quality criteria for ammonia to reflect the aquatic life found in their ponds, lakes and streams, among other sources of freshwater.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=37707071&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e2y3a9j5&split=0

Inside EPA - Gas Plants Face Few New GHG Limits But Likely To Eventually Require CCS -

10/30/13 - Increased use of natural gas may have helped the United States reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the short term but a top EPA research official says that in the long term, natural gasfired power plants will have to install carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) technologies.

http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-11/01/2013/gas-plants-face-few-new-ghg-limits-but-likely-to-eventually-require-ccs/menu-id-67.html

Inside EPA - EPA Declines To Extend State Reporting Cycle For Impaired Waters Lists - 10/30/13 - EPA has declined to extend the reporting cycle for states to submit lists of polluted waters from two years to four or five years, citing the move's poor public message and potential funding cut. http://insideepa.com/201310302451300/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-declines-to-extend-state-reporting-cycle-for-impaired-waters-lists/menu-id-95.html

Inside EPA - EPA Downplays Fears Guide Will Force Changes To Groundwater Cleanups - 10/30/13 - EPA has released for comment its draft framework for assessing groundwater cleanup remedies, a measure which opens the door for regulators to reconsider aspects of the cleanup. http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-11/01/2013/epa-downplays-fears-guide-will-force-changes-to-groundwater-cleanups/menu-id-67.html

Inside EPA - Coal Ash Ruling Opens Door To Force Broad EPA Review Of RCRA Rules - 10/30/13 - The federal district court ruling finding EPA has a duty to review its Resource Conservation & Recovery Act (RCRA) coal ash rules every three years could open the door for groups to sue the agency to force reviews of years-old solid and hazardous waste rules. <a href="http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/In

Inside EPA - Scrutiny Of RFS Ramps Up As EPA Poised To Issue 2014 Program Targets - 10/30/13 - Scrutiny of EPA's renewable fuel standard (RFS) is ramping up ahead of the agency's potentially imminent release of its proposed 2014 RFS fuel production targets. http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA-11/01/2013/scrutiny-of-rfs-ramps-up-as-epa-poised-to-issue-2014-program-targets/menu-id-67.html

Inside EPA - Internal Evaluation Urges EPA To Overhaul Water Office's Climate Strategy - 10/30/13 - An internal EPA evaluation of the Office of Water's (OW) climate change strategy finds that the office is not adequately implementing its plan due to a number of factors, including lack of management and staff "buy-in." http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-11/01/2013/internal-evaluation-urges-epa-to-overhaul-water-offices-climate-strategy/menu-id-67.html

Inside EPA - Air Force Permit Tests EPA Power To Set Stormwater Retention Standards - 10/30/13 - The Air Force is challenging an EPA stormwater control permit in a case that could test the agency's high-profile policy that seeks to set strict stormwater retention requirements to control runoff and potentially extend to permits the reach of a landmark court ruling that barred officials from regulating "flow" in pollution control plans. http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-11/01/2013/air-force-permit-tests-epa-power-to-set-stormwater-retention-standards/menu-id-67.html

Inside EPA - EPA Poised To Issue RCRA CO2 Waiver But Declines Clarification On EOR - 10/30/13 - EPA is poised to soon release its final Resource Conservation & Recovery Act (RCRA) rule for excluding

carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) projects from strict hazardous waste regulations. http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-11/01/2013/epa-poised-to-issue-rcra-co2-waiver-but-declines-clarification-on-eor/menu-id-67.html

Press Releas

Link to all R7 press releases: http://go.usa.gov/Qx5

EPA Region 7 to Host November 4 Public Listening Session in Lenexa, Kan., on Reducing Carbon Pollution from Existing Power Plants – 10/31/13 – Contact: David Bryan, 7433

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

11/7/13 - CFC Kick-Off Event, Regional Office. Contact: Becky Dolph, 7281

11/14/13 – National Association of Farm Broadcasting Trade Talk, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

12/16/13 – Interagency Environmental Leadership Council, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Ron Hammerschmidt, 7566

12/3/13 – SES National Executive Leadership Development Conference, Washington DC. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487

12/9/13 - Region 7 Senior Management Retreat, National Archives at Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551 12/19/13 - Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office, Wendy Lubbe, 7551 DRA: 10/31 –11/1/13 - Executive Management Council Meeting, Washington, DC Contact: Dana Peters, 7444 11/14/13 - National Association of Farm Broadcasting Trade Talk, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 12/9/13 - Region 7 Senior Management Retreat, National Archives at Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551 12/19/13 - Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office, Wendy Lubbe, 7551 **RA/Immediate Office** None **Other Events AWMD** 11/4/13 – Green House Gas Listening Session, Regional Office, Josh Tapp, 7606 **CNSL** None ECO/EJ 11/1/13 - EJ Presentation at Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Altheà Moses, 7649

11/4-5/13 – Green Impact Zone Essential Employability Skills Training, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Altheà Moses, 7649
*11/14-15/13 – Carter Carburetor Public Meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Pamela Johnson, 7480
*11/13-15/13 – Santee Sioux Healthy Homes Training, Niobrara, Neb. Contact: Karim Dawani, 7289
12/4 – 12/6/13 – Senior Enforcement Managers Meeting, Washington, DC. Contact: DeAndré Singletary, 7373
ENSV
None
PLMG
11/5/13 - KC Small Business Networking Event for Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Businesses, Kansas City, MO. Contact: Chester Stovall, 7549
11/5/13 - Small Business Entrepreneurial Graduation Conference, Lee's Summit, MO. Contact: Chester Stovall, 7549
11/5/13 - American Indian Enterprise Business Council Annual Conference, Kansas City, KS. Contact: Chester Stovall, 7549
11/19/13 - Federal Executive Board and Chamber of Commerce Small Business Planning Meeting, Kansas City, MO. Contact: Chester Stovall, 7549
11/21/13 - GovFest Government Business Services Conference, Overland Park, KS. Contact: Chester Stovall, 7549
RA/OPA
None
SUPR

11/20-22/13: Oversight of pre-construction activities West Lake Landfill, Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Matthew Jefferson, 7520

11/20/13: Public availability session to discuss DOD vapor intrusion investigation St. Louis Ordnance Plant, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Matthew Jefferson, 7520

WWPD

10/31/13 – Iowa Association of Business and Industry speech and panelist, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

11/4-6/13 – Annual Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities (CIFA) Conference, Minneapolis, Min. Contacts: Glenn Curtis, 7726, Sabre Germano, 7026

11/6/13 – Missouri Water Quality Standards Effluent Regulations Hearing, Jefferson City, Mo. Contacts: Bob Angelo, 7060, John DeLashmit, 7821

11/6-7/13 – Nebraska Water Environment Association (NWEA) workshop, Kearney, Neb. Contact: Glenn Curtis, 7726

11/18/13 - National Capacity Development & Operator Certification Workshop, Atlanta, Ga. Contact: Bob Dunlevy, 7798